

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 00437 201555Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15
SP-02 TRSE-00 PM-04 INT-05 /093 W
-----210123Z 116416 /73

R 01901619Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
ZNE/AMCONSUL BILBAO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 437

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SP
SUBJECT: SANTA MARIA GARONA FUEL REPROCESSING TRANSFER

REF: STATE 11339, LONDON 902, MADRID 292

1. EMBOFF VISITED BY FEDERICO DEL POZO, DIRECTOR,
AND JOSE LUIS SANCHEZ, GNERAL MANAGER OF NUCLNOR.
SANCHEZ REPORTED NEGATIVE RESULTS OF HIS VISIT TO
WASHINGTON JAN. 12-15 TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR RENEWAL
OF MB 10 COVERING SHIPMENT OF IRRADIATED FUEL FROM
SANTA MARIA GARONA CENTRAL TO UK FOR REPROCESSING.
NEITHER HE NOR DEL POZO UNDERSTAND DELAY IN OBTAINING
ROUTINE APPROVAL FOR TRANSHIPMENT OF FUEL WHICH HAS
BEEN REGULAR OPERATION SINCE 1974. EMBOFF EXPLAINED
THAT US IS IN PROCESS OF EXAMINING ENTIRE SUBJECT OF
REPROCESSING NUCLEAR FUEL. THUS DELAY IN APPROVING
REPROCESSING APPLICATIONS.

2. NUCLNOR REPS EMPHASIZED FACT THAT REMOVAL OF
IRRADIATED FUEL ON ESTABLISHED TIME TABLE IS VITAL TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 00437 201555Z

CONTINUED FUNCTIONING OF SANTA MARIA REACTOR.
LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF SHIPPING FLASKS (ONLY TWO)
MEANS REMOVAL OF IRRADIATED ELEMENTS MUST BE ON UNBROKEN
SCHEDULE TO FREE REQUIRED SPACE IN REACTOR. IF SCHEDULE
CANNOT BE MAINTAINED PLANT WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED DOWN
CAUSING LOSS OF FOUR PERCENT OF SPAIN'S TOTAL ELECTRIC

POWER PRODUCTION (UP TO 40 PERCENT OF NORTHERN SPAIN'S ELECTRIC POWER). IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME 3000 TONS OF PETROLEUM PER DAY TO REPLACE THIS LOSS.

3. NCULENOR REPS SAID THIS TYPE OF DELAY WAS NOT FORE-SEEN BY FIRM SINCE THEY HAVE REGULARLY RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR PREVIOUS REPROCESSING TRANSFERS. (THEY GAVE COPY OF APPROVED MB 10 COVERING LAST HALF 1976 TO EMBOFF.) FURTHERMORE, THEY POINTED OUT THAT SANTA MARIA CENTRAL (LIKE JOSE CABRERA CENTRAL) WAS BUILT IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH US REGULATIONS AND THE BILATERAL US-SPAIN AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR TRANSFERS AND REPROCESSING OF IRRADIATED FUEL. NEITHER THE AGREEMENT NOR THE REACTOR SUPPLIER, GENERAL ELECTRIC, ENVISIONED FULE OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND THUS THE REACTOR HAS INSUFFICIENT STORAGE SPACE TO HOLD SPENT FUEL FOR MORE THAN SHORT PERIODS OF TIME. THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR NEW REACTORS NOW BEING BUILD IN SPAIN WHICH HAVE STORAGE SPACE MORE IN ACCORD WITH CURRENT CONDITIONS.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES SANTA MARIA CASE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF JOSE CABRERA (ZORITA), I.E., OLDER REACTOR BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH US REGULATIONS AT THAT TIME WHICH DID NOT MAKE PROVISION FOR CURRENT REQUIREMENTS FOR INCREASED STORAGE SPACE. THUS IT SHOULD ALSO MERIT AN EXCEPTION TO COVER TRANSFER OF IRRADIATED FUEL TO THE UK. IMPORTANCE OF REACTOR TO TOTAL ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY AND SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OIL IMPORTS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REPLACE ITS ELECTRIC OUTPUT ALSO ARGUE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 00437 201555Z

5. NUCLENOR REPS WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY HESITATION ON PART OF UK REPROCESSOR BNFL TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL IRRADIATED FUEL. THEY SAID UNCERTAINTY OF IF AND WHEN BNFL PLANT WILL OPEN MEANS THAT SHIPMENTS TO UK AT THIS POINT ARE SIMPLY FOR STORAGE. NUCLENOR HAS NO PROBLEM WITH SAFEGUARDS ON DISPOSAL OF REPROCESSING PRODUCTS AND MB 10 COVERING LAST HALF 1976 CONTAINS STATEMENT THE DISPOSAL WILL BE AT AUTHORIZATION OF USG.

6. IF UK INTERESTS SEE PROBLEM AND THUS DELAY IN ACCEPTING CONDITIONS SET OUT IN ERDA LETTER TO SPAAK (EUROPEAN COMMISSION) EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE POSSIBLITY OF IRRADIATED FUEL IN US AS SUGGESTED IN MADRID 292. THIS CLEARS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FOR SPANISH AND GIVE US COMPLETE CONTROL OVER FINAL DISPOSITION OF IRRADIATED FUEL. STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EXPORT LICENSES, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID00437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770022-0327
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770189/aaaafrir.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: acede4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 11339, 77 LONDON 902, 77 MADRID 292
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3677090
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970828
Subject: SANTA MARIA GARONA FUEL REPROCESSING TRANSFER
TAGS: ENRG, SP, UK, US, TECH, (SANCHEZ, JOSE LUIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/acede4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009